

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for providing an interface for accessing home devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a device list file in an autonomous and dynamic manner, wherein the device list file identifies home devices that are currently connected to the home network;

creating a device link page, wherein the device link page contains at least one graphical or textual representation of corresponding devices that are identified in the device list file;

associating a hyper-text link with each device representation, wherein the hyper-text link provides a link to a web page that is contained in the device that is associated with the device representation; and

displaying the device link page on a browser based device.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a device list file further includes the steps of:

periodically refreshing the device list file by:

autonomously detecting that a home device is currently connected to the home network;

associating a logical device name with the home device; and

storing the logical device name in the device list file.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the step of:

- retrieving a logical device name from the device list file;
- storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
- converting the logical device name to a device button.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

- retrieving a device ICON image from a home device;
- creating a device button based on the device ICON image; and
- storing the device button in the device link page.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

- retrieving a device LOGO image from a home device;
- creating a manufacturer device button based on the device LOGO image; and
- storing the manufacturer device button in the device link page.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of associating a hyper-text with each device representation, includes the steps of:

retrieving a URL from a home device, wherein the URL is maintained in a properties file associated with the home device; and
associating the URL with the device representation that is associated with the home device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of storing the manufacturer device button in the device link page includes the steps of storing the manufacturer device button in a user definable area of the device link page.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of retrieving the URL from the home device includes the steps of retrieving the URL from a properties file that is stored on the home device.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of dynamically and autonomously updating the device list file as devices are connected to the home network.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of dynamically and autonomously updating the device list file as devices are disconnected from the home network.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of dynamically and autonomously updating the device list file as devices are connected to, and disconnected from, the home network.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of autonomously determining the network location and availability of the devices that are connected to the home network.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of dynamically and autonomously updating the device list file as devices are connected to the home network.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of dynamically and autonomously updating the device list file as devices are disconnected from the home network.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps of generating the device list file further includes the steps of dynamically and autonomously updating the device list file as devices are connected to, and disconnected from, the home network.

16. (Previously presented) A method for providing an interface for accessing home devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:
generating a device list file in an autonomous and dynamic manner, said device list file containing device identification information of said home devices in response to a detection of home devices that are currently connected to said home network; and
creating a menu page, the menu page containing at least one of a graphical and/or textual representations of said home devices that are currently connected to said home network.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying said menu page on a user interface device.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of retrieving an icon image file which contains graphical and/or textual representation of said home devices from said home devices.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said identification information of said home devices comprises a logical name and an IP address for each of the home devices.

20. (Previously presented) A method for configuring a home network comprising the steps of:

generating a device list file, in an autonomous and dynamic manner, of home devices that are currently connected to said home network, said device list file containing device identification information of said home devices; and

outputting said device list file to create a menu page which contains at least one of a graphical and/or textual representation of said home devices that are currently connected to said home network.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a user interface for controlling devices that are currently connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of, for one or more of said devices:

- (a) obtaining information from devices currently connected to the network, said information including device information;
- (b) generating a user interface description in each of said one or more devices based at least on the obtained information, the user interface description in each device including at least one reference associated with the device information of each of said devices currently connected to the network; and
- (c) displaying one or more user interfaces each based on one of said one or more user interface descriptions, on one or more devices connected to the network capable of displaying a user interface, for user control of said devices that are currently connected to the network.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of displaying each user interface further includes the steps of:

using each reference in the corresponding user interface description to access the associated information in each device;

generating the user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device; and

displaying the user interface on said device capable of displaying a user interface.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of generating a user interface description further comprises the steps of: associating a hyper-text link with the device information of each of said devices currently connected to the network.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said information in each device comprises an HTML page contained in that device.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of displaying the user interface further comprises the steps of: displaying the user interface on a browser on said device capable of displaying a user interface.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

connecting at least one client device to the network capable of displaying a user interface; and

displaying a user interface on the client device using the references in a user interface description, for controlling devices that are currently connected to the network.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one device is capable of displaying a user interface, and further comprising the steps of: displaying a user interface on said at least one device using the references in the user interface description, for controlling devices that are currently connected to the network.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating each user interface description such that the reference in that user interface description provides access to at least the information in each corresponding device.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating each user interface description such that the user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the device information in each device includes a user control interface description for user interaction with the device.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating each user interface description such that each reference in that user interface description is to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating each user interface description wherein that user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing reference to the user control interface description in each device.

34. (Previously presented) An agent that provides an interface for accessing home devices that are currently connected to a home network, the agent comprising:

a list file generator that generates a device list file in an autonomous and dynamic manner, wherein the device list file is dynamically refreshed periodically to identify home devices that are currently connected to the home network;

a link page generator that creates a device link page, wherein the device link page contains at least one graphical or textual representation of corresponding devices that are identified in the device list file, the device link page further including a hyper-text link associated with each device representation, wherein the hyper-text link provides a link to a web page that is contained in the device that is associated with the device representation; and

a renderer that displays the device link page on a browser based device as a graphic user interface.

35. (Previously presented) The agent of claim 34 further comprising a session manager that matches device capabilities and user selections in one graphic user interface with device capabilities and user selections in another graphic user interface, to facilitate compatible device selection, thus simplifying use of the home network.

36. (Previously presented) The agent of claim 35 wherein the session manager further enables a user to initiate an available service on the home network that can be performed by one or more home devices by:

obtaining particular capabilities of a selected home device by accessing the selected device;

searching particular capabilities of other home devices listed in the device link page for matches to the particular capabilities of the selected home device;

for each other home device found to have a matching capability to the selected home device, allowing the user to select that other home device.